

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 03890 282254Z

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SS-20

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJECT: LABOR UNREST

SUMMARY. DIRECT WORKER ACTIONS INCLUDING OCCUPATION OF PLANTS AND HOLDING OF MANAGEMENT HOSTAGES, ARE UNDERMINING AUTHORITY NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS. EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE UNION POWER BY ABOLISHING SMALL UNIONS ARE BEING RESISTED. CORDOBA TO COMMEMORATE 5TH ANNIVERSARY CORDOBAZO WITH RIVAL LABOR SECTORS EACH GOING OWN WAY. NATIONAL CGT HEADQUARTERS BOMBED ON MAY 27. END SUMMARY.

1. NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS' INABILITY TO SATISFY WORKERS ECONOMIC DEMANDS, AND THEIR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE POWER AT THE TOP, ARE CAUSING INCREASED TURMOIL IN THE LABOR FIELD. THE FOLLOWING NOTED CURRENT DIFFICULTIES ARE INDICATIVE OF THE DEEPROOTED TRADE UNION AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS WHICH WILL UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE TO PLAGUE ORGANIZED LABOR IN THE COMING MONTHS.

2. WORKERS' CONVICTION THAT SOCIAL PACT WAGE INCREASES ARE INSUFFICIENT HAS BEEN REFLECTED IN INCREASING NUMBER OF WILDCAT STRIKES AND WORKER OCCUPATIONS OF PLANTS. LATTER TACTIC HAS BEEN

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 03890 282254Z

OPPOSED BY NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS AND MINLABOR OTERO, AND

POLICE ARE BEING USED TO EJECT OCCUPIERS. HOWEVER, STRIKERS CONTINUE TO USE TACTIC IN OPEN DEFIANCE OF GVT AND UNION LEADERS. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION UNIONS ARE ALSO UTILIZING STRIKES TO PRESS FOR BENEFITS FAR IN EXCESS OF THAT GRANTED UNDER SOCIAL PACT.

3. EFFORTS TO ABOLISH SMALL UNIONS AND CONSOLIDATE TRADE UNION POWER IN HANDS OF FEW LARGE UNIONS ARE BEING ACTIVELY OPPOSED BY AFFECTED SMALL UNIONS. A MINLABOR DECREE THAT STATE WORKERS ASSOCIATIONS (ATE) WOULD HENCEFORTH REPRESENT NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF BUENOS AIRES NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL (APUBA) THREATENS TO DISRUPT FUNCTIONING OF UNIVERSITY. FOLLOWING APUBA STRIKE, AND ANNOUNCED SUPPORT BY OTHER UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATIONS, MINLABOR AGREED TO REVIEW DECISION WITHIN 60 DAYS; HOWEVER, UNION REJECTED LATEST DECISION AS DELAYING AND DISRUPTIVE TACTIC, AND IS CONSIDERING RENEWED STRIKE ACTION. ADHERING TO NEW POLICY, THE RAILWAY WORKERS UNION (UF) IS CONSIDERING PLANS TO ABSORB ALL SMALL UNIONS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF LA FRATERNIDAD, WHICH HAVE EVEN REMOTEST RELATIONSHIP WITH RAILWAY INDUSTRY. SIMILAR ACTION IS UNDERWAY IN POWERFUL CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS UNION. IN ANOTHER, BUT MORE DIRECT ACTION, MINLABOR OTERO ABOLISHED LEGAL STATUS OF MILK WORKERS UNION WEEK OF MAY 20, LEAVING CGT FINANCE SECRETARY ARCE'S ASSOCIATION AS SOLE UNION IN FIELD.

4. FOR POLITICAL REASONS NATIONAL AUTOMOBILE WORKERS UNION (SMATA) HAS REFUSED TO RECOGNIZE VICTORY OF TROTSKYITE RENE SALAMANCA'S SLATE IN RECENT CORDOBA UNION ELECTIONS. PENDING FINAL ACTION THE NATIONAL SMATA HAS DECLARED CORDOBA UNION BOARD TO BE "VACANT". ON MAY 29 CORDOBA COMMEMORATES 1969 CORDOBAZO IN WHICH MANY STRIKING WORKERS WERE KILLED BY POLICE. INDICATIVE OF CORDOBA POLITICAL DIVISIONS, THE CGT (ORTHODOX) HAS CALLED 24-HOUR WORK STOPPAGE WITHOUT ANY SPECIAL ACTS, THE LEFTIST PERONISTS HAVE CALLED 12-HOUR STOPPAGE WITH SPECIAL CEREMONIES AT TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION (UTA) HEADQUARTERS, AND THE TROTSKYITE CONTROLLED COMBATIVE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT WILL HOLD ITS OWN CEREMONIES FOLLOWING MID-DAY WORK STOPPAGE. THE PROVINCIAL INTERVENTOR ORDERED GOVT OFFICES CLOSED FOR DAY AND URGED WORKERS TO ATTEND SPECIAL MASS AS SOLE COMMEMORATIVE ACT.

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PAGE 03 BUENOS 03890 282254Z

5. TERRORIST ACTIVITIES ALSO CONTINUE. AN ANTI-TANK GRENADE WAS FIRED MAY 27 INTO THE NATIONAL CGT HEADQUARTERS IN THE OFFICE OF SOCIAL WELFARE SECRETARY, AND NATIONAL SMATA SEC GEN, JOSE RODRIGUEZ. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, A CAR PARKED NEAR THE CGT WAS DEMOLISHED BY A BOMB. NEITHER WARNINGS NOR THREATS PRECEDED THE EXPLOSIONS, NOR HAS ANY GROUP YET CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ACTS. A CGT CONTACT TOLD LABATT THAT THE CGT IS PERPLEXED AS TO MOTIVE, BUT BELIEVES IT WAS RELATED TO SMATA DIFFICULTIES.

COMMENT: WITH ONLY ISOLATED EXCEPTIONS THE NATIONAL LABOR LEADERS ARE LOSING REAL CONTACT WITH THE WORKERS THEY REPRESENT. THE RESULT IS AN INCREASED WORKER RECEPTIVITY TO THE PROSELYTHIZING OF THE OPPOSITIONIST, LEFTIST LABOR ACTIVISTS WHO ARE WORKING UNRELENTLESSLY AT THE WORKER LEVEL. INCREASED TURMOIL AND EVENTUAL CONFRONTATION APPEAR TO BE THE LIKELY COURSE OF EVENTS.

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